

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

**Claim 13-15 (canceled)**

**Claim 16 (currently amended): A method for preventing breakdown of a lithium manganese oxide (spinel) cathode active material in an electrochemical cell by overcharge to an electrochemical breakdown voltage in an electrochemical cell comprising a lithium manganese oxide (spinel) cathode active material, an anode, and an electrolyte solvent, said method comprising, including in the electrolyte solvent of said cell DMAC (dimethylacetamide) as an additive, which absorbs excess charge energy at a voltage less than the breakdown voltage of said cathode active material, wherein said DMAC is present in an amount of about up to 10% by weight of the electrolyte solvent.**